



December 2000

Environmental Fact Sheet

EPA Proposes Taylor Lumber & Treating Site to National Priorities List Sheridan, Oregon

On December 1, 2000, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed that the Taylor Lumber & Treating (TLT) site in Sheridan, Oregon, be added to EPA's National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is EPA's list of the nation's most contaminated hazardous waste sites targeted for long-term cleanup. Sites on the NPL must be cleaned up by the responsible parties or EPA. At TLT, woodtreating chemicals have been found in surface soil, subsurface soil, and groundwater. These contaminants have moved through ditches around the property to the nearby South Yamhill River, which could contaminate drinking water. The South Yamhill River is also used for recreational fishing and is home to sensitive fish populations, including threatened steelhead and coho salmon. Airborne contaminants have also reached residential yards. People could be exposed to the contaminants through breathing airborne dust, swimming in the river, or touching or ingesting contaminated soil.

What Would NPL Listing Do?

NPL listing would ensure a comprehensive cleanup at the site. In early November 2000, EPA's emergency removal program finished moving 4,200 tons of contaminated soil to a secure on-site holding cell, and finished building a barrier wall (called a "slurry wall") and asphalt caps. This will prevent contaminants in soil and groundwater from spreading further. While this work addresses immediate threats to human health and the environment, NPL listing would fund a more comprehensive study and long-term cleanup. If the site is listed on the NPL, EPA would sample to see how much contamination exists in nearby residential yards, and how far it extends. We would also assess the full extent and amount of the contamination in the Yamhill River and Rock Creek. We would use the data from this sampling to assess any long-term risks to human health or the environment, and evaluate cleanup options. EPA would require responsible parties to clean up the site and reimburse the Superfund for cleanup costs.

Public Comments on the Proposed Listing Must be Submitted by January 30, 2001

Interested parties are encouraged to provide their comments concerning this listing proposal to EPA Headquarters. **Send an original and three copies of your comments to:**

By Postal Mail:
Docket Coordinator, Headquarters
U.S. EPA CERCLA Docket Office - 5201G
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

By Express Mail:
Docket Coordinator, Headquarters
U.S. EPA CERCLA Docket Office
1235 Jefferson Davis Highway
Crystal Gateway #1, First Floor
Arlington, Virginia 22202

You may also e-mail your comments, in ASCII format only, to superfund.docket@epa.gov. E-mailed comments must be followed up by an original and three copies sent by mail or express mail.



Background

The Taylor Lumber and Treating (TLT) site is an active wood processing and treating business in Yamhill County, Oregon. It is located one mile west of Sheridan, Oregon at the intersection of Rock Creek Road and Oregon State Highway 18. The wood treating facility stands about 300 feet north of the South Yamhill River. Rock Creek flows about 300 yards from the westernmost property boundary of the wood treating facility. Approximately 60 acres of the property is used for the wood treating process. Willamette Pacific Railroad operates a rail line through the site, hauling treated and untreated wood products twice a day.

Chemicals used for the treatment of lumber, such as creosote, pentachlorophenol (PCP), and arsenic have been found in high concentrations in the soil, groundwater, and drainage ditches surrounding the facility. Dioxin and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were also found at the site. Contaminants have also been found in the sediments in Rock Creek and the South Yamhill River, and in nearby residential yards. Long-term exposure to these chemicals can cause cancer or damage to the liver, blood, and the central nervous system.

EPA wants to provide you with useful environmental information. Please feel free to call, write or e-mail us to let us know how we can improve our fact sheets to suit your needs. You can e-mail Debra Packard at packard.debra@epamail.epa.gov. We are exploring electronic distribution of future fact sheets. Would you like to be notified by e-mail that this information is available on our web site?

For More Information

If you would like to review the documents that support this NPL proposal, please call or e-mail:

Bob Phillips
EPA Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, ECL-110
Seattle, Washington 98101
(206) 553-6699
phillips.bob@epa.gov

Contacts

If you have other questions about the site, please contact one of the following people:

Mike Slater, Oregon Operations Office
(503) 326-5872

Loren McPhillips, Site Manager
(206) 553-4903

Debra Packard,
Community Involvement Coordinator
(206) 553-0247

You may also call our toll free number:
1-800-424-4372

EPA has developed a web site about the removal activities at TLT and will place fact sheets and other information about the removal at this web site. The web address is:
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/cleanup.nsf/sites/tlt>

Information on proposed and final sites can be found by accessing:
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/npl.htm>

To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities by contacting one of the numbers above.

EPA's Internet homepage:
<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 10 (ECO-081)
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle WA 98101

TAYLOR LUMBER & TREATING SITE
Sheridan, Oregon